

THE  
DECLARATION  
OF THE ARMY  
IN  
IRELAND

Declaring their Resolutions for a Free Parlia-  
ment, and the Re-appointing of all the  
Members excluded in 1648, and for the  
establishing of a Learned and Orthodox  
Academy, and for the Maintenance by Taxes,  
and the removing of all needless Imposts  
and Taxes.

Traversed by a Letter concerning the  
proceeding Transactions there, directed to a  
Friend in London.

Printed from Dublin February 18. 1659.

A  
LETTER from DUBLIN  
To a Friend in LONDON.

Worthy Sir.

**N**otwithstanding I have wrote to you by this very Post inclosed to my friend, yet since its delivery into the Post-house there having happened sudden and unexpected Changes which has not only retarded the usual pass of the Post but much amused the people in this Nation. But as it has its original in Ireland, yet doth it chiefly concern England; It being intentionally to assert the privileges of the Nations, in endeavouring to remove us out of that servitude in which we have been for some years detained under: but Sir, not to keep you in suspense, know that these persons here remonstrating were opposed by Sir Har. Waller, with some other few Commanders, who with two Companies of Foot secured Dublin Castle which was this day delivered into the hands of the Remonstrators, as Sir Char. Coote, Sir Theo. Jones, and the rest, I having inclosed the Declaration, Sir, shall not need to give you any other further account but that I am

Your Servant. W. G.

Dublin, February 18. 1649

07-1339

# The Declaration of the Army in *Ireland*; Dated from *Dublin* Feb. 16. 1659.



**S**INCE the Authority of Parliament became openly violated, and that by their own waged servants of the Army in *England*, by whom 41. of the Members of Parliament were torn from the Parliament House in *Decem.* 1648. and imprisoned, and 160. other Members denied entrance into the House, and about 50. more voluntarily withdrew themselves to avoid violence, making in all of excluded Members about 250. when the remaining Members charged the Army with the guilt of that force, and sent to the then General of the Army for restitution of those excluded Members, which was denied them, how many and manifold have been the Miseries and Calamities under which these Nations have laboured, and do still labour, is evident to all equall minded men; The godly Ministers of the Gospel despised, the Ministry it self vilified, Tythes and other means of their maintenance (particularly in *Ireland*) taken from them and misapplied; The Protestant Religion shaken and almost overturned, Anabaptists, Quakers, and other Sectaries, set up and countenanced, Heresies and Schisms increased; The Fundamental Laws of the Land trampled upon, and an Arbitrary Government endeavoured to be introduced; The Civil Rights, Properties, and Liberties of the people, in their persons and Estates, broken in pieces; Impositions and Taxes on the people without example laid, and increased in an excessive manner and measure, whereby thousands of Families, have been ruined, and enforced to beg their bread; Manufacture at home discouraged, Publick Trade and Commerce abroad interrupted; The Nations become deeply indebted, and generally impoverished; the Reformed Protestant Churches abraad exposed to great danger, wanting the wonted support of *England*, which (under God) was the Bulwork and chief strength of the Protestant Religion throughout all Christendome, and finally the *English* Nation (which was alwaies deservedly) in so high honour and estimation at home and abroad, as it was a bridle and terror to their Enemies, and a countenance and support to their Friends and Allies, is now become (we tremble and grieve to have so just cause to speak it) a scorn and derision to all Nations round about us, & all this brought to pass to satisfy the Avarice, Ambition, Lusts and Fears of a few inconsiderable persons of Anabaptistical and other Panatick Spirits, who have made it their business to occasion still one trouble on the neck of another, so to embroyl and continue the Nations in Division, War, and bloody Confusions, that sober men might not have time or leisure (with maturity of judgement or Council) to look into the inwards of their designs or actions. And after we had beheld all this with bleeding hearts, and calling to mind that when

(172)  
in *December* 1648 the said force was put upon the Parliament, the then remaining Members sent sundry times to the Generall to know why he imprisoned their Members, and desired him to set them at liberty, which was not done, and we gathering from all this, that if the House were once freed from the force of an Army, & they again restored to Freedom and Liberty of sitting & acting, they would then upon the former grounds (in conscience of their duties to God and their Country, & in testimony of their resentment of that breach of privileges of the Parliament, have taken into the House those excluded Members, and filled vacant places by due and orderly elections of the people) and after so many years unhappy interruption unite again in a Full and Free Parliament, (and there assert the Rights and Privileges of Parliament, and Liberties of the people, which from the very beginning of the War of *England* have been not the least ground of their contest with the late King, and ever since, and joyn their councils and endeavours for restoring these Nations to Peace and Tranquillity.

And thence it was, that on the 14. day of *December* 1659 several Officers of the Army here on behalf of themselves and those under their commands, by their joynt Declaration, declared and published their stedfast resolutions to adhere to the Parliament in the defence of its Privileges, and the just Rights and Liberties of the people of these Nations as Men and Christians; In which Declaration afterwards concurred the whole Army of *Ireland*, but now finding much contrary to our expectations, that when the Members of Parliament now assembled at *Westminster*, were in *December* 1659. (by an extraordinary providence) restored to their Freedom and Liberty of sitting and acting as in Parliament; and that divers of those formerly excluded Members of Parliament on the 27. of *December* 1659. (as they had formerly done in *May* 1659.) offered themselves to discharge their Trusts for the severall Counties and places for which they were elected, and formerly served, those their fellow Members assembled at *Westminster*, did not onely deny them admittance, but also voted and ordered the utter exclusion of all the excluded Members with this further addition, That none of them should be chosen in future Elections to sit in Parliament, whereby they have by a more unnatural violence taken away from above the one half of the people of *England*, their Representatives in Parliament, and limited and abridged in a high degree the Liberty & Freedom of the people in future Elections, which denial and order of theirs in a time when they were under no force, is so much the more strange in regard that in *December* 1648. when they were under a force, they transferred that guilt from themselves to the Army, and pretended a willingness to readmit those Members if it were in their power as is formerly mentioned.

And whereas Lt. Gen. *Ludlow* had placed in *Ireland* several Officers who are Ambassadors, and persons of the like fanatique spirits, many of whom had

been Very Active in the late conspiracies and actions of the factious part of the Army in *England*, even against those members of Parliament now sitting at *Westminster*, of which Officers so placed by Lt. Gen. *Ludlow*, it was found necessary to purge the Army, and to put in their places persons more soberly minded and well affected to the Parliament; yet after all that done, and after Lt. Gen. *Ludlow* stood justly and deservedly charged with High-Treason, the said Lt. Gen. *Ludlow* himself, and some others of the like principles with him, were by a report from the Council of State proposed to be appointed to govern not only the Army, but also the whole Nation of *Ireland*, to the astonishment of the people and Army here; to the unsettling of those persons so well deserting to the hazard of the peace of the Nation & Army, (and which is above all) to the endangering even of Religion it self. And here it is observable that those Members now sitting at *Westminster* by their Declaration of Jan. 33. 1659. since their restitution to their present liberty of sitting) have published that extravagant Councils & actions, have engaged the Nations in a great debt and charge, which it seems necessitates their laying a new increase of charge on the Nations, and yet so indulgent they are to those persons that in a high degree created that necessity of so unreasonably charging the people, and whose Estates might well bear a great part of that burden, as without so much as any suit made to them by those Delinquents, they granted them indemnity for their persons and Estates, whereby it seems the said Members now sitting at *Westminster*, hold it fit that those who are of sober spirits, and offended not the Parliament, should out of their Estates pay for those extravagant mens Delinquencie, rather then the Delinquents themselves. And although the said Lt. Gen. *Ludlow*, (and *Misses Corbet* Esq. together with Col. *J. Jones* and Col. *Mat. Thomlinson*) stand impeached from hence most justly of high-Treason, and that charge against them being known to the House, and there remaining, yet they have admitted two of those persons, namely the said Lt. Gen. *Ludlow*, and *Misses Corbet* actually to sit in the said House.

And now the greatness of those miseries which have befallen these three Nations in general, by such late actings in *England*, and those heightened with many aggravations in the circumstances of them, (too many and too long to be repeated) as it hath begotten in us and in all good men in the three Nations deep impression of astonishment and horror, so it is evident, that if it be any longer continued, it will perpetually nourish dishonour to God, grief to all good men, and (we doubt and fear) utter infamy and destruction to the three Nations.

In contemplation whereof, and considering how God hath in his justice blasted all attempts that since the year 1648. have been made for resetting of these Nations in peace and tranquillity, and that after all the trials and various changes of Government which we have in all that time with much long

suf.



suffering and patience endured, there is no way visible to us under Heaven whence deliverance may probably be wrought or expected; but from the care and wisdom of a free and full Parliament in *England*, which (by the experience of all former ages hath been found the best and only expedient for providing remedies, to be applied to so great and General mischiefs arising in Church or State. And considering also that the marks of the true reformed Religion according to the word of God, and of the fundamental Laws of the Land, and of our now dying Liberties and Freedom, are not yet so utterly razed and defaced, but that some footsteps do yet remain, so as (by the wisdom of a full and Free Parliament) they may be again renewed and firmly re-established; and considering likewise that our hopes of having the said excluded Members restored, and of new elections to be made for vacant places, whereby there might be a full and Free Parliament, as there was on the fifth day of *December* 1648, and the ancient and long contested-for Liberties of the people might be asserted, are much contrary to our expectations, and contrary to the fundamental Laws of the Land, and indeed contrary to all justice and reason become frustrated; and considering further how unjust and unreasonable a thing it is, that of above 500. Members, whereof the Commons House of Parliament usually consisted, there were but 44. or thereabouts, when that fatal vote passed for the keeping out the aforesaid excluded Members, by the prevalency of a major part of the said 44. persons (not much exceeding those who voted then on the contrary side,) which assumes to it self the Supream Authority, not only of *England*, but also of the three Nations, without Precedent or example of any former age, there being above 250. which stand eleven years excluded, without so much as the least offer of an impeachment against them in all that time, which unexampled and unparalleled assumption in those men is not possible to continue but by the force of an Army poisoned with Anabaptistical and corrupted principles, to the continual grief and unsupportable burden and charge of the three Nations.

And besides that act of the aforesaid persons chasing away (for so it now appears) about 250. Members, of above 500. chosen by all the several parts of *England*, according to the known Laws of the Land, to represent the whole Nation in Parliament, and after the forcible exclusion of so many that the 44. persons remaining (amongst whom we believe there are some worthy Patriots who are not so fully concurring in the acting of the rest of their number, as violently overvoted by them, which is a further aggravation of the others guilt) should dare to usurp to themselves as is formerly mentioned contrary to all Laws, the supream power not only of *England*, but also of *Ireland*, and *Scotland*, is a thing which none but conquerors or Tyrants would attempt, and in all circumstances is so hideous and monstrous to be endured by a free people, formerly famous to all the world for wisdom and valour as the English Nation have been, as it will be incredible to all posterity.

And lastly considering that as in all ages, and more particularly since the beginning of the late horrid Rebellion in *Ireland*, our brethren in *England* have abundantly manifested a tender and compassionate sence of the condition of *Ireland*, and were careful to relieve us in our lowest estate, as bone of their bone, and flesh of their flesh, which we do, and shall ever acknowledge with humble thankfulness, and (as a debt which we well know to be due from us to them above all people in the world,) shall be for ever as tender of their happiness and welfare as of our own, which indeed is involved in theirs, and without whom *Ireland* cannot be happy. We therefore remaining constant in the reasons of our said Declaration of the 14 of *December* 1659. for adhering to the Parliament in defence of its privileges, and the just Rights and Liberties of these Nations; all which we see now are apparently more and more violated by the not admission of the said excluded members, and by not filling the vacant places, whereby the House might be full, and being freed from force, might uninterruptedly act according to their judgements and consciences towards resettling the peace of these Nations, which otherwise in all humane probability can never be restored to peace and tranquillity.

We do therefore declare for a free and full Parliament in *England*, consisting not only of those that sat on the 11 of *October* 1659. but also of all such of the members of Parliament imprisoned, excluded, or withdrawn in *December* 1648. as are yet living; whom we desire may be restored to the freedom and liberty of sitting, and acting according to the trusts committed to them by the several Counties and places which did chuse them; that so they may be no longer debarred from discharging their said Trusts, and that vacant places may be speedily supplied by free and due Elections of the people, yet so as none of the persons to be admitted or elected be any of those who have been in Arms, or otherwise ayding, abetting, or assisting the late King or his Son in the late war against the Parliament; and that the House being so filled, may proceed unanimously to consult the best means for resettling the peace of the Nations, the re-establishment of true Religion, (the ~~same~~ foundation, as of all righteous Government, so of all the happiness of a Nation,) the fundamental Laws of the Land (whereby all mens rights and properties are preserved) and the liberties and freedom of the people; which are supported by those Laws.

And for those ends, and in discharge of our duty to God and to our Country, We do resolve (by the blessing of Almighty God) to joyn with all our Brethren in *England*, *Ireland*, and *Scotland*, who have or shall joyn with us for the ends aforesaid; and do resolve for the maintenance and preservation thereof, to hazard our Lives and Estates, and all that is dear to us; and we doubt not but all our Brethren in the said Nations, who disdain to be made Slaves, will joyn with us herein, as being with wisdom and reason ap-





